

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 13-15, 18, 24, and 25 are currently pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 13-15, 18, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over WO 99/57259 ("WO '259"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

On page 4 of the Office Action, it is alleged that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to make the composition of the present invention, because the WO '259 reference teaches that all of the ingredients recited by Applicants are suitable for inclusion in a surfactant composition. Further, the Office Action alleges that a person of ordinary skill in the surfactant art would expect the recited compositions to have properties similar to those compositions exemplified. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not expect that the compositions of WO '259 to work as the present invention, as WO '259 teaches away from the present invention.

WO '259 discloses laundry detergent and/or fabric care compositions comprising a modified enzyme which comprises a catalytically active amino acid sequence of a cellulolytic enzyme linked to an amino acid sequence comprising a Cellulose Binding Domain (CBD) having a relative binding constant (K_r -a) for binding to amorphous cellulose higher than 2.41/g cellulose, preferably higher than 3.51/g cellulose, more preferably higher than 4 1/g cellulose. *See, e.g.*, WO '259, page 1, paragraph 1. The enzyme of WO '259 selectively binds and hydrolyzes amorphous cellulose in cotton containing fabrics. *See, e.g.*, WO '259, page 3, bottom.

While WO '259 discloses enzymes that selectively binds and hydrolyzes amorphous cellulose in cotton containing fabrics, Applicants respectfully submit that the compositions of the present invention are for rinsing fabrics that have been washed in high suds forming detergent compositions. The compositions of the present invention are typically for use after the washing of fabric articles by hand. Further, the compositions of the present invention are for use during the rinsing phase of the washing process, after the addition of laundry detergents, in order to minimize sudsing and/or decrease the effect of the surfactants found in laundry detergents. The compositions of WO '259, however, seek to improve the

characteristics of cotton containing fabrics. Additionally, the present invention provides a different benefit beyond improving cotton-containing fabrics via enzyme mechanisms, as the compositions of the present invention are contemplated for use with fabric articles generally. One of ordinary skill in the art would not look toward disclosures relating to enzymes for binding and hydrolyzing amorphous cellulose in cotton containing fabrics in order to formulate a composition for rinsing fabrics that have been washed in high suds forming detergent compositions. As such, and because of the differences in the art, Applicants respectfully submit that WO '259 does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that WO '259 teaches away from the present invention as WO '259 is drawn to enzymes for binding and hydrolyzing amorphous cellulose in cotton containing fabrics.

Because WO '259 does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regard to all claims not specifically mentioned, these are believed to be allowable not only in view of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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